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Amendment to the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A formulation for enhancing the surface appearance of an infiltrated metal or metal/ceramic composite part comprising:

- (a) a solvent;
- (b) an organometallic binding agent;
- (c) zirconium dioxide; and
- (d) at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial sec-butyl/methyl mixed ester; poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial 2-butoxy/ethyl mixed ester; and poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), propyl ester.
the polymer comprising between about 0.5% to about 4% by weight in the solvent.

Claim 2. (Original) The formulation according to claim 1 wherein the binding agent is selected from the group consisting of titanate and zirconate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 wherein the at least one polymer is poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial sec-butyl/methyl mixed ester.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 wherein the solvent is acetone.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A formulation for coating the surface of an infiltrated metal or metal/ceramic composite part, the improvement comprising adding to zirconium dioxide at least one of an organometallic binding agent or agent and at least one polymer selected from

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the group consisting of poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial sec-butyl/methyl mixed ester; poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial 2-butoxy/ethyl mixed ester; and poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), propyl ester.

Claim 7. (Original) The formulation of claim 6 wherein the at least one binding agent is selected from the group consisting of titanate and zirconate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to claim 8 claim 6 wherein the at least one polymer is poly(styrene-co-maleic acid), partial sec-butyl/methyl mixed ester.

Claim 10. (Original) The formulation according to claim 6 further comprising a solvent.

Claim 11. (Original) The formulation according to claim 10 wherein the solvent is acetone.

Claims 12-17 (Withdrawn)